GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:537
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007
SPECIAL SCHEMES TO ATTRACT FOREIGN TOURISTS
Chaudhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have any data regarding number of foreign tourists traveled by trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the income earned by Railways therefrom during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Railways are contemplating to formulate any special scheme to attract foreign tourists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): In order to attract the foreign tourists, Indian Railways introduced Indrail Pass Scheme in the year 1977 as a tourism promotion measure. These passes are issued to the foreign nationals and Non Resident Indians (NRIs) against payments in the US dollars, Sterling pounds and Euro currency. The pass holder is entitled to travel throughout the Indian Railways' Network within the period of its validity in a class it is issued for. Further, Indian Railways has also run six luxury tourist trains for tourists including foreign tourists i.e. Palace on Wheels, Heritage on Wheels in Rajasthan sector, Steam Safari Train-the Fairy Queen on Delhi-Alwar sector, Deccan Odyssey in Maharashtra Sector and Buddhist Special by covering places linked with Lord Buddha. In addition to above, two new luxury tourist trains in Karnataka and Rajasthan may also be launched in the tourist season 2007-08. One luxury tourist train in the Punjab Sector has also been approved. These luxury tourist train facilities are availed by foreign tourists.